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# MU SHI SHI 3

YUKI URUSHIBARA

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SHI  
3  
YUKI  
URUSHIBARA

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They live on the shadowy border between the possible and the impossible—ancient life-forms known as *mushi*. Rare is the individual who can see them, but those with that special ability, the *mushishi*, can counter the creatures' deadly effects on humans. After a young boy is orphaned in the forest, he is saved by a reclusive female *mushishi*. But the lake near the *mushishi*'s home holds a deadly secret, and the boy must find out what it is before his only friend is lost forever.

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# MU SHI SHI 3

**Yuki Urushibara**

Translated and adapted by

**William Flanagan**

Lettered by NMSG



Ballantine Books • New York

## Contents

About Mushi	iv
Honorifics Explained	v
Mushishi, Volume 3	1
Appendix	237
Afterword	239
Translation Notes	240
Preview of Volume 4	244

*Mushishi* volume 3 is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

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# Honorifics Explained

Throughout the Del Rey Manga books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Del Rey not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Del Rey Manga.

- san**: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.
- sensei**: This is one level higher than "san." It is used to confer great respect.
- dono**: This comes from the word "dono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "sama" and confers utmost respect.

## About Mushi

The kanji for *mushi* is made up of three kanji meaning bug (also called *mushi*) put together. The kanji can be used interchangeably for insect, but they can easily take on other meanings. In CLAMP's *XxxHolic*, the kanji was introduced as the name for a type of magical vermin.

*Mushishi* can be translated as "mushi master." Ginko is a man who studies *mushi* and seems to have learned to control some through his own senses and others through medicines, remedies, or just a knowledge of their nature. Ginko probably learned his craft from other, older *mushishi* who wander Japan.



蟲

こ

師

Mushishi

3

Yuki Urushibara

- koe:** This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.
- choc:** This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.
- Bae:** This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirr."
- Sempai/  
Senpai:** This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.
- Kohai:** This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.
- Sensei:** Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.
- (blank):** This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.



...see  
 causes  
 that there  
 is a grand  
 rising  
 not that  
 yet can  
 understand  
 what he  
 said to

In the  
 cold  
 air...

No...

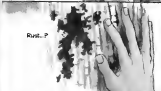
There is no light.

But I really enjoyed it.



## Contents

The Cry of Rust	3
From the Ocean's Edge	49
The Heavy Seed	91
White Living in the Inkstone	139
The Fish Gaze	183













It should be okay for you to use your voice in here.

I don't want to rust either, rust?



This ought to be enough.



They called me in to try to cure the disease.

I'm not your executioner.

My name is Goro.



You can see...

...the rust. Can't you...?



Um...

You can...

...see... the rust... too?



You can talk, right?

Well?



KaFF!

KaFF! KaFF!



...hear me out?

Could you...



The disease can be cured.







Shige!

But until then...

...we'll be able to repay them! Someday.

...you are not to let anyone hear your voice.



The only thing we can do... is to trick people into pitying us.

to survive.

About when I was four.



...when everybody started to have trouble moving.

I only realized it wasn't a good thing...



But nobody else saw it.

It's only natural for people to resent us.

Due to the pain I've chosen to allow us to survive.



I haven't spoken to any person...

...for ten years.

Since then, ...I haven't talked to anybody.



If you do talk... we won't be able to live here.

...and... and... and...

You are never to talk of this with anyone else.



The only way we can live is through the charity of the headman at the great houses.

I can't move anymore.



I won't then (that I talked with Father and Mother about it).









There's one favor I have to ask.

Hmm?

But...

Could you...

...teach me the letters I have to write?



It's right.

If I can cure the sickness.

...I'll do anything.



I can try to...

...with my own voice.



Then I can...

...bring Tetsu-san.



Yes.



Yeah.

We're going to use your voice to get the monster out of here.



...after that, to be safe...

...you're going to have to leave town.

How over...

Ek...P





Shige!



Comit, Shige!

... we can't get away with the ignorant act anyone.



Teboul!

Hurry, clear out that snow!



Gyaag!

What did you just do, Teboul?



No!  
Give it back!

No!  
You were always too sympathetic to Shige!



I'm showing this to the headman!

Give it!



I can't...  
Not yet.



Everybody will come here next.

Shige!

No telling what they'll do.

You... have to run!



Thank you for everything.

Good-bye!









...then  
it'll be her  
voice that  
will drive  
it out.

If it was  
Shige's voice that  
called in the  
lenses...

...she'll  
make  
amends.



Everyone  
connected  
with the  
disease has  
suffered the  
same.

Wouldn't  
that even  
things out?



Shige...

Your  
letter...



But her  
voice...

...had a  
quality that  
attracted the  
things that  
caused the  
lenses.



Shige  
only...

...acted  
like a  
normal  
kid...

...and  
talked,  
laughed,  
and sang.  
That's all.



Just  
for  
that...

...we  
should  
forgive  
her? No!



She  
could  
have  
broken  
her  
rule.

She  
could  
have  
said just  
two or  
three  
words...



That's  
got  
nothing  
to do  
with us!

This is  
about  
how she'll  
apologize  
for the  
lenses she  
caused!



My child  
is the  
same age  
as she  
is, and he  
can't walk  
anymore!

Come  
with  
mine!



...and you  
all would  
never have  
suspected  
a thing.

Whoever  
guilt  
there  
is, she  
certainly  
felt it!

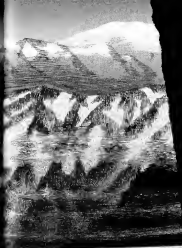


If you  
want an  
apology,  
then  
you've  
got it.

In the  
way she  
spent  
these last  
ten years.

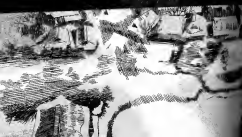






An  
unbearable  
wire

ached  
through  
the  
mountains.





In the end...

Look at me! My legs...

You're all right!

Shige!

...that I was planning for you to do.

...you did almost exactly the thing...

The Yotsuki don't like the salt air.

But the only place you can go...

...is that pass that leads toward the sea.

The Yotsuki that gathered in the town will be dispersed into the mountains.

I wanted your sons to go to the mountains surrounding the town.

He's just brooded out.

I'm sorry!

I'm sorry!

I even gave the illness to Tobito...

Relax.

He won't come down with the disease.



Black  
then, L...

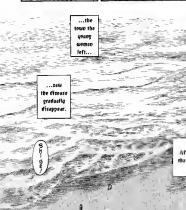
...really  
loved this  
town.



My  
memories  
are  
faint.

...but I  
remember...

...the  
time  
before  
there was  
much  
rust.



...the  
sound the  
young  
swimmer  
left...

...and  
the disease  
gradually  
disappear.

Oh-  
Oh-

After  
that...



But...

...the  
musk that  
you scattered  
were just a  
fraction of them.

You're  
probably  
going to  
have to come  
back and  
scatter them  
for years to  
come.

Or maybe  
before you've  
done the job,  
your voice  
really will give  
out.



...I can't  
Yasabi.

It's  
just  
normal  
rust.

The rust  
that you  
see in those  
towers that  
bother in the  
salt air...



The  
reason why  
Tetsu didn't  
catch the  
disease...

...is that  
he came here  
after being raised  
in a fishing town.  
I imagine his  
years in the salt  
air stayed  
with him.

If you  
lived near  
the sea,  
you could  
have a  
normal  
life.



Red  
that's...

...fine  
with  
me.

I know.





...and  
many, many things that  
wash up  
ashore.

The  
beaches  
in this  
area...

And  
occasionally  
a person.

Huge  
deep-sea  
fish.

Tree seeds  
blow the  
wind. Empty  
shells.



But even  
now, they  
say...

Going  
to  
die  
here?

Yeah.

I'm  
going  
with  
you.

...that  
the people  
of the  
town...

...can still  
hear a broken,  
hoarse voice  
with an odd  
beauty to it...

...aching  
softly  
through the  
mountains.



He  
he  
POLY



He...

WHISPER

5



WHISPER

5

WHISPER

Let's  
go  
over  
there...

Yeah.



He  
he  
POLY



Or  
else

an  
empty  
boat  
with  
no one  
aboard.



KOTIK

KOTIK

From  
the  
Ocean's  
Edge





It's weird  
for you to  
get fired for  
that little  
slip-up!

We could  
ask my  
father for  
help.



Why  
not?!

Not  
a chance.



She  
was a  
weak.

Where  
would  
we go  
from  
here?



It  
was...

...about  
two  
and  
a half  
years  
ago...



A lot of  
lies were  
spread  
around.

...We  
were  
sur-  
rounded  
by jealous  
people.

The  
moment  
I lost you  
and I got  
engaged...



They were  
just looking  
for an  
excuse to  
dump me.

...to  
spare  
me from  
the world.



It  
stinks  
of  
fish.



Who'd  
have  
expected  
that you'd  
come all  
the way out  
here...

You  
surprised  
me,  
too.



They told  
you were  
supposed  
to inherit  
everything.



Come  
on!

It's  
so  
warm.



I never  
thought for  
a second  
your home-  
town would  
be this far  
away from  
anywhere.

And  
it's still  
another  
half-day  
from  
here?

KOREE



KOREE



Michi...



Oh...  
...mihi...  
...mihi...



...I'll  
apologize.



What's  
that...

...sup-  
posed to  
mean?



It was a  
terrible  
experience  
from the  
start for  
both of us.

You  
aren't the  
eldest.



To tell  
the truth...

...I never  
thought  
you'd come  
with  
me.



Your  
wife...

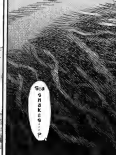
...ain't  
she coming  
aboard?



If you  
want to  
go home,  
you can.

This  
land...

...certainly  
doesn't  
suit  
you.





If my wife's boat capsized, too...

...Then at least one piece of our baggage should have washed up here.

...Things out at sea come washing up here.

I mean to heaven of the ship to this beach.



I can't move from here.

But since there's absolutely no proof...

The Police will be too doubtful that I'm alive.



Go after them!

Hurry!



77 GRIN



Or if, against all odds, she died...

...she'd be living a whole new life by now.

But...  
...you've been waiting for two and a half years?

But...

Isn't that overdoing it?

Even without proof she can't be alive.



And no trace of my wife's boat...

was ever found.



I was washed up on this shore.



With that, the boat capsized.







Take this.  
It isn't much, but consider it yours.

Yeah...  
We got a real good price today, too! Thanks!



That would be best for everybody!

Come on!



Hey!



Why don't you settle down here?



You can tell everyone else, too.



...that you were just some strange man.

I'm sorry... I always thought...



Thank you!



I'd never be able to get to the next town on that!

If we include labor, it costs about this, right?



Yeah, but...

...how about this?

You couldn't give any more than this.

Yes...

From now on, this is how much you should get.





...after  
being  
missing  
for three  
years.



And...

...my  
boat's  
now  
returned.

...ever  
returned?

Only  
the  
boat...



So it  
does  
bother  
you, huh?



Even if there  
were a boat  
coming back,  
it wouldn't  
reach the  
beach...

There  
are  
no  
waves.



KIRI



I'm  
not  
going  
anywhere.



With  
it  
like  
this...  
we  
probably  
wouldn't  
go out  
to fish  
until it  
settles  
down.

At  
times  
when  
the  
mist  
is  
up...  
...a  
lot of  
boats  
don't  
return.



With  
the tide  
coming  
up this  
high, it's  
like that  
time...  
The one  
about  
three  
years  
ago.

A mist  
just like  
this came  
up then,  
too.

Yeah...

When the time comes, those in the mountains make their way downward.

The ones in the sea come close to the shore.

They flow together out at sea, and a thousand days later...

It refers to the belief that if a serpent lives for a thousand years in the sea and another thousand in the mountains, it becomes a dragon.

These musk are connected with that saying.

Still, there's no way of knowing how many years it has actually lived.

...and others go out to the quietly in the mountains.

...they come back to the same section of the sea and become one large musk.

At first glance, there seems to be no difference between them and snakes.

...some of them separate off and circle the outer sea...

While I give off this misty stuff...

...it's show up again pretty soon.

And according to sources...

No I thought it came from...

I think that...

They're really musk.

R-  
Right...

I knew it.

It's you!

There were some points to your story that bothered me.

So since then, I've done a lot of research.

That huge group of snakes you talked about...

...other people didn't see it, right?





I  
can  
see  
it.

You  
can  
see  
it, can  
you?



.....  
Yeah



You've  
made  
all  
of  
your  
prepara-  
tions?



You're  
right.

You  
can  
see  
the  
land  
with  
an  
odd  
clarity  
from  
this  
mist.





...the  
same  
boat as  
before!



It's  
okay.

Pull  
up to  
2.



There's  
a...

...body  
in it,  
too...



A lot  
of  
them!



KREE



KREE









It's dangerous to be here now.



Hurry!



...is over there.

The land you have to go back to...



See where my hand is?

...do you...

Right now...



Wait.



We have to leave!

Shiro...



...don't human anymore.



The mushi are beginning to change.

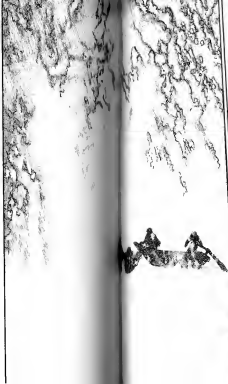


It's right over there.



I'm just fine.

I can see it.







Say,  
honey...



Do  
you  
think...

...Did  
it's a  
tooth?

This...



I  
wonder  
what  
this is?

Mm...

What  
is  
it?



Shiro!



It's  
over...

...doesn't  
end  
anymore.

It's  
okay.



Yeah...

...It's  
very  
pretty.

Look!  
at  
this!

Look!

From the Ocean's Edge The End



Look  
at this  
field.

You  
won't  
get  
any-  
thing  
here.

It's  
all we  
can do  
to store  
food for  
ourselves.

This  
year has  
had an  
awfully  
cold  
summer!



Um...



...but  
I could  
buy, would  
you?

You  
wouldn't  
have any  
food.



Don't  
go  
making  
wild  
sug-  
gestions.

Hey!

They say  
they had  
a bumper  
crop this  
year.



Go  
to the  
village  
one  
mountain  
over.

Young  
plants that  
have hit  
need in the  
corps of  
its parents.

Spread  
forth your  
grain,  
green  
grass.

And plant  
your  
brown,  
brown  
seed!

The  
Heavy  
Seed



Those are some impressive fields.

.....



The ancestors take the weak ones first.

Why do you say that?

During a bumper year.

A bumper crop...



It's some kind of ancestor's curse.

Of the people who eat it, one of them is going to die!

Who has a bumper crop in the middle of a famine?

Their rice isn't normal.

Don't even try it.



We've got nothing to give to strangers.

It isn't like we have a good crop every year. We have to store food when we have a chance to store it.



What do you want?

What do you want?



Well, something to eat for starters.

I was hoping you could sell me some food.



It's a "Paring Harvest."

A "Paring Harvest"...

Someone...

...will be taken by the ancestors again.







Ceremonial Master?



Yeah.

They bury the body?



And the tooth?

...The Ceremonial Master takes it to the temple to worship there.

The tooth...



It falls out, and for a little while...

...the Ceremonial Master is the only one to see it.

As I said, the Ceremonial Master worships.



He runs everything in connection with the religious ceremonies.

I'm supposed to... by the next one, so he's teaching me all sorts of things.



If it weren't for this tooth...

But everybody thinks it's a good thing.

I doubt I'll ever be able to turn soil fertile in this.



...is given as an offering to the ancestors.

That life...

That story has been passed down over the years.



Is that why you're worried?



They say... it's because they're weak.

Do those who have lost their lives have anything in common?



So,  
who  
are  
you?



A  
quest? That's  
unusual.



Sometimes  
I see things  
that the  
others  
don't see.

I'm just  
like  
Master-  
sama...



Why  
are you  
supposed  
to follow  
after him?



I'm  
in  
search  
of...

...a thing  
called  
the  
Norazu  
seed.



I'm a  
murderer.

My  
name's  
Goro.



Maybe  
he's in  
the fields  
out  
back?



Master-  
sama!

I'd  
like  
to  
meet...  
...His  
Ceremonial  
Master.



...a  
diary.

Agric-  
ulture  
books  
and...



There's no mushi going on here.

Didn't do any good.



Then...

...that seed is the power of your ancestors?



A guy calling himself a mushi... came by during my predecessor's time.



Over many years... I've wandered the country trying to find out ways of fertilizing the land.

And everyone is helping continue the research.



Of course, that's a part of it.



But that isn't everything, either.

...and they work all-out on this land.



Yeah.

What's wrong?

Are you still worried about your mother?



Never heard of it.



If we don't prepare, we'll never make it.

There's a huge harvest this year.



Send!

You still have farm work to do, don't you?

When you're done, come back.



Everything's all right!

Here, give her this to eat.

Don't worry about it!



Yeah, I heard it from my master.

...who talked about how something called a "light flow" was contained within it...

There was a mushi...



You mean like you know about Kurosaki seeds?



Mushi are creatures so weak they can be carried by light.



Right.

You should be able to sense the light flow, too.

That's because you're the type that can see mushi.



By flow



It's growing more and more with each year's harvest.

As a result... over time we are developing a seed.



...about this "extra tooth"?

Then...



I have one more question.

Do you mind?



Every so often, an adult will grow an extra tooth.

It has nothing to do with the seed.

Now, could you go home?



If it were you, and you found that seed, what would you do?

And?

Would you destroy it?

Would you use it?



That's... what's passed down in our records.



What would you do?

...want to ask is exactly that.



With just one life...

...you could save the lives of all the rest. If you had that seed, what would you do?



Naturally...

That's the greatest sin for mankind.

However...

...there have been quite a few ways around the taboo.



You could call it "life" itself.

If one can manipulate it...

...there are even ways to achieve immortality or resurrection.



They're close to Kido, the liquid origin of mankind.

The light flow is the vein in which the Kido flows.



In a price, it can be the life of those who have that seed.

Bury it, and within a year, all the crops around it grow in abundance.



That seed is one of them.



Isn't that  
polluting the  
very  
land you  
take pride  
in?

This  
land...

I don't  
even  
remember  
ever living  
in a  
village.

I  
don't  
know.

But before  
that  
happened...

I'd leave  
the land.

Ha ha!  
What  
are  
you  
talking  
about?  
This  
is  
all  
just  
hypo-  
thetical.

Ha...

He  
has  
been  
and  
should  
be  
our  
Sovereign!

I'd  
have  
to...

I  
know  
of  
that.

A  
seed  
like  
that...  
...if  
it  
actually  
existed...

And in  
that  
land, you  
planted  
a foreign  
seedling.

...consider  
it with  
great  
caution...

...this is  
our one  
source of  
pride!

They  
were  
the  
first  
to clear  
the  
land!  
And  
because  
of them,  
we've  
made it  
this far!







...will help to fertilize the land.

In spring the ashes in the fields...



There should be ways to survive that.

They go and find a way to live in other places for a year.

Everyone will be...



...but who would bother to come back?!

Who would...



Before somebody grows an extra tooth...

...you're saying we have to destroy the seed, right?



You're saying we have to burn the fields...?



997

I won't have it...



Without involving them... in those weird problems...

It's better this way...



Nobody knows! That's why they're the burden.

Nobody knows the truth... of the bumper crop...



Only be to you here...



Nobody would be saved by doing that.

You want everyone to die of starvation?



Yeah, that's right.

Your thinking is wrong!

You finally concede that there's a problem?



Master-  
sama!!



Yeah...

...sorry  
about that.

IE, you  
took some  
medicine,  
you'd feel  
better.

Cer-  
emonial  
Are Master-  
sama/  
all right?



I'm  
just  
fine  
now.

You  
can  
go  
home.



I  
really...  
...don't  
know.



Does the  
guy have  
some  
kind of  
sisters?



The  
stuff in  
this.



He hasn't  
had much  
energy  
these  
days.

And now  
and then,  
he takes  
some  
medicine.



...was a  
Ceremonial  
Master  
generations  
ago.

The  
one  
who...  
...brought  
the  
seed  
to the  
village...

I'll  
tell  
you  
everything

...just  
let  
us  
be.

You say  
you  
want  
to  
burn  
the  
fields...

...Isn't  
that  
being  
a little  
irrespon-  
sible?

But  
to do  
this...

I don't  
know  
why you're  
drinking  
that  
poison...

...do  
you  
think  
you're  
doing?

Just  
what...

...don't  
look like  
you want  
to use  
the seed  
for your  
own pur-  
poses...

...but  
you...

Listen,  
Mushishi-  
san...



...the last  
disaster  
had  
happened  
twenty  
years  
before.

When I  
became  
Master...

To keep  
people from  
panicking,  
the only one  
who knew  
about the  
seed down  
through the  
generations  
was the  
Master.

...I  
would use  
the seed  
wherever  
there were  
a natural  
disaster...

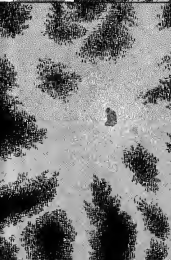
Two  
after  
that

...should  
be  
me.

I  
decided...  
...that  
the last  
sacrifice  
to that  
seed...

Please...







But I don't know...

...how many generations that would take.

No matter what happens, these tyrms will never see it.



...It's you who wanted to see the future of this land.

More than anybody else...



I intend to have Sand...



...destroy the seed that falls from my mouth.



I can see it.

If we don't give up on it now...

...slowly this land will become more and more fertile.

And someday people will be able to live here with no worries.



Is that...

really how you want it?



...It's my intention... never to reveal what kind of seed it actually is.

But...



...were buried in that "right flow" that you talked about...

...nobody would ever see it again.







Hey, Gane!

Mrs. Gane, there's some big change in the ceremonies since last year?

Ha ha ha!



It's very important...

...so listen very carefully...



Monster-sans!

た  
た  
た

TMP  
TMP  
TMP

.....  
Ha ha...



This is good.

This is how it should be.



You Gane drink...

...that this year's crop might not be a "Parting Harvest" after all, do you?



By the way...

Has anyone grown an extra tooth...?

No... I haven't heard anything.



She's taking her time, and we're getting stronger little by little.

I think my mother will be all right!



...  
Say, Gane...

There's something we need to discuss.



Is that right? That's great.

See? Didn't I tell you?

Yeah!







And even if it does, I don't know if you'd be happy with it or not.

I don't know if it can work.

If you do that...

...could they ever forgive you?

If that happened...

...you would...

...go beyond living wings...

...even an animal might be revived.

If one were to not the seed...

...I want to have that gamble.

But...

If you can stay quiet, then it won't get out.

...and we're not making a mortal...

...that the light flow would remain inside you.

So it's possible...

But...

...you're different from a plant.

...think it over.

I want you to...

I rubbed seed in your wound...

...In the name of finding out whether the seed was real or not, to apologize...

...I can stand my hands getting a little dirty.

...accepting a situation like this?

Could you...

...see yourself...

...the biggest taboo for you gave?

Isn't that...



To  
that  
all right...



I  
want  
to  
know  
if  
what  
I  
did...

...was  
the  
right  
thing  
to  
do.



I've  
made...

...my  
decision.



At  
the  
same  
time...



...the harvest  
for that  
year was  
the staple of  
conversation  
for long  
afterward.



I'd  
like...

To  
see  
what...

...becomes  
of this  
and in  
the  
future.

...to  
see it  
through.



...to  
at my  
place now,  
treating my  
grandma!

I told  
you,  
it's  
okay!



Wow...

There's  
weird  
stuff all  
over the  
place!

See?



What's  
this?

...the  
rice from  
this  
particular  
harvest  
brought a  
man back  
to life.

That year,  
after many  
years of  
reaping  
the "Dart-  
ing War-  
corns"...

That  
man was  
reincarnated  
and would  
wander  
the lands.

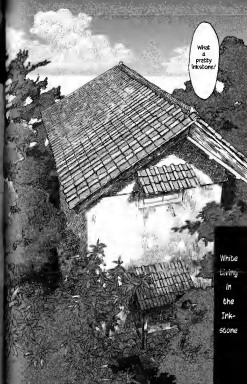


...an old  
legend  
was  
here.



And  
they  
used  
them  
to  
harvest  
the  
techniques  
of  
harvesting  
the  
rice  
for  
the  
land  
beautiful

And  
they  
used  
them  
to  
harvest  
the  
techniques  
of  
harvesting  
the  
rice  
for  
the  
land  
beautiful



White  
Living  
in the  
Ink-  
stone







A mushi fossil?



It's something I bought from a collector I know.

...and they say it's an inkstone that was created from some kind of mushi fossil.

It has a beautiful shape...



Thanks for coming!



Oh!

Over here, Ginko!

I'm here!



You shouldn't...

...buy things on such vague information! It causes trouble!



I don't know if such a thing is possible.

Generally speaking, they don't lose bodies behind.



She's getting weaker.

I'm giving her drink, hot water to warm up her body, but...

How's the patient?



...are not made of normal matter?

Did you forget that these things you love so much...



This is it.

Thank you!



I was careless.

I did my best to keep the villagers from seeing inside the storehouse.









My father  
was famous for  
his inkstones.  
But he  
disappeared.

Back  
then...

And he  
couldn't  
work for  
a while.



I've  
heard...

...that  
each one  
died within  
a month of  
using it.



Right  
now...

...there's  
someone  
who is  
suffering  
because  
of this  
inkstone.



I want  
you to  
tell me  
what you  
know.



Again...

...will  
nothing  
change  
your  
mind?

He lived in  
the village  
over the  
mountain, and  
he brought  
orders for  
my father's  
inkstones.

Both he and  
his parents  
were against  
my taking  
over my father's  
business.



I had a  
flourish.



I don't  
want  
that to  
end!

The only  
ones who  
can sculpt  
these  
rocks are  
my father  
and  
myself!

You  
should  
understand  
better than  
anyone!



As  
far as I  
know...

...only three  
people have  
ever used  
that  
stone.



I'm...

...and you're  
here.

I've been  
searching  
for that  
inkstone.

For a  
long time.



It was strange how it caught my eye.

Captivated, I started to sculpt it.



I dug out this stone.



...was an unmatched master piece.



I find the intubone that came from it.



Well...

Shall we try it out?



What a fine shape.



...I can make items as well as my father! You'll see!

Now...



You can't do it on your own.

And these days there aren't as many orders for your work as before.



If I can...

make something to make him admit that I'm good, then I'm sure he'll...



I'll come again...



But I couldn't seem to make one good enough.

I poured myself into making an intubone.



See?

It's still  
right up  
there.



What?

...What?  
What...?

There was  
a puff of  
something  
like smoke...  
that came  
from the  
hearthstone.

What's  
wrong?



Where  
is  
it...?



Er...?



What?



!!

Ur...

Koff!

Koff!  
Koff!







I'd like to help, but...

...that's everything that I know.



It's like this...

...my father died as well.

I decided never to make incense stones again.



...now I can make an educated guess.

On the contrary...



I'm sorry, but I'm in a hurry.



What are you talking about?

Thanks to you.



Thinking back to the time I sold some incense stones to a second-hand store.

That...



He was stricken with an odd disease that kept lowering his body temperature.

He started saying that he was cold from the day I gave him the incense stones.



I heard rumors... However...

...from second-hand sellers and brokers.



And after that...

I went to the second-hand store, but he had already sold it.

I couldn't find out where it went.



...that there were more deaths...

...can't be tied to that incense stone.



They look like small thunder-clouds.

...like clouds, they eat the water or ice, and give off snow or hail.

Just as the "kumogori" in their name suggests...

What is inside the inkstone...

...is a mushi called Kumohari.

It's okay.

We can save them.

You're back!

If you can make jokes, that means you're found something?

But they can't move on their own. The wind moves them.

They fall to the ground and freeze themselves into a state of suspended animation.

When there is a long time with no clouds, they shrink to a very small size.

When this happens, from the ground it looks like...

...hail is falling from a cloudless sky.

Wh...?

Cher-coal...

...a portable stove... and?

...and also do you have back racks for carrying?

A large pot...











Heh...

...I guess that's what will happen.



Those things have nothing to do with you!

Can you say everything else in here is safe?

Are you that stupid?



...the muski inside it will be killed, right?

If she destroys the inkstone...

Hey, Goro! Say something to her!



Besides, that inkstone...



I'd imagine...

...that it'd be almost as precious as a child for you.

...is too beautiful to destroy.



Come on.

The muski didn't do anything wrong.



Thank goodness...



Thank goodness.



...was treating something that dangerous as a curiosity.

...the biggest mistake here...

In the first place...



What I'm saying...

...is that now we know how to treat it, it isn't a problem anymore.



I'll take responsibility and make sure it's never used again.





**U  
L  
I  
F  
R  
E  
:**

After  
this, you  
can use  
it.



Lira



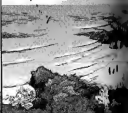
...how about you release all of the murchi from the incubator?



—Is that it's your fault if the nuclei in the limestone are released into the world, right?



7-10



that's  
my  
all-time







She'll be  
back on  
her feet  
soon.



She can  
always  
make  
inventions.



Well...



Still full  
of greed,  
huh,  
Genzo?

I don't  
mind if  
it has  
mushi  
in it.



Then,  
can I  
order  
one?



THANK

ほり

THANK

ほり



Send me the  
bill.

I'll pay  
it back,  
even if  
it takes  
my whole  
lifetime.



Send me the  
bill.

The  
whole  
town is  
feeling  
this.

The price  
for roof  
repair  
will be  
enormous.



Yeah?  
How will  
you get  
money?



Hey

Boy...

Are you alive?



They haven't eaten in a long time.

Come on!

When is this going to stop?

White Living in the Inkstone The End



I guess so...

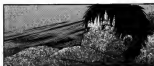


But it might...

...take a bit of time...



# The Fish Game



What  
is it,  
Yuki?

Did you see  
something  
strange  
again?



Now  
that's  
strange.

Maybe  
we got  
on the  
wrong  
path.



Or  
maybe...

...It's  
me that  
frightens  
you?



There's  
nothing  
to be  
afraid of.

Those  
things are  
still afraid of  
the light. They  
don't have much  
of an effect on  
anything.



Hurry  
and get  
better.  
Then  
leave.

I  
won't  
let you  
up for  
long.



Drink.  
This. It's  
good  
for your  
wounds.





It's  
just a  
mirage

It's  
all  
right.  
It's  
all  
right.

You  
have  
to  
have  
a  
strong  
heart.







Still...

...they do have an effect on things.

So they're completely different from us?



...aren't mirages, are they?

These things



But you can't call them mirages either.

You can't say they exist like we do.



It's all white. With green eyes.

What kind of fish is that?



But they all...

are missing one eye...



It's the same "life" as us...

...but in a different form.



They are different, but...

...they aren't completely estranged from us.



Um...



The mudfish living in the lake did that.

Don't get near it during nighttime or dawn.



It is probably from eastern mushi as they decompose.

Every now and again...

...the lake can shine with a silver light at dawn.

This is what happens when you're bathed in that light a number of times.

How did your hair and eye get like that...?

The fish in the lake, and you. Mui-san.

The other is...

"darkness, darkness."

...darkness"

...is the best way to say it.

They look like...

Right.

One type is when you close your eyes, or when you're in a dark room, or on a moonless night. The type of darkness when the sun or other lights are blocked.

There are two types of darkness.

Darkness...?

Now...

The sun's going down. Let's go inside.

...if you came back any more times, you'd lose the other eye?

Then...

I assume that it stays like that.

Look at the fish in the lake.

Isn't it odd how there are no completely blind fish?

But when darkness comes, it's so small mushi that come out of the lake.

During the daylight, it stays still in the dark places.



They're swimming.

Wow...



N

HEH



What was that?!

That's

It's spicy...

PROO

PROO



SH



But bite on it, and you'll have a stronger stomach.



The ones that give off light seem to be a different mushi that lives within the Tokoyami.

The ones that take the shape of darkness are called Tokoyami.



What's the name of those mushi?



I call them "Ginko."

I don't know if they have a name.



You can't eat it.

How about this?

By biting on it.



But don't swallow.



What's this?

Let's light  
a lamp.

Yeah.

...thanks.

Nui!

I forgot.

I can  
see well  
in the dark...

Probably.

But  
it's a  
nice benefit.

Is that  
because  
of the  
"Ginnyu"?

When  
you...

By  
the way,  
Yakk...

...wander  
the mountain  
at night...

COUGH

KO-HOFF

Yeah.

CHOK

It always  
happens  
when I  
walk the  
mountain.

They'll  
swarm  
together  
again  
soon.

You  
broke  
them  
up?

GET

It  
takes  
some  
getting  
used to.

I  
know.

It  
isn't  
something  
you just  
do for  
fun.

Hey...  
Can I  
do that,  
too?





But I went  
into the  
mountains  
and  
looked  
anyway.

Because  
of all the  
misleading  
people, they  
forbade  
anyone  
else to go  
into the  
mountains.

Then my  
father and his  
friends...  
many of the  
villagers...

And two  
others  
who went  
looking  
for them.

My  
husband  
and son  
were  
missing.



All had  
gone  
into the  
mountains  
and never  
come  
back.

But  
most  
of  
all...



...to  
see my  
husband  
and  
little  
boy.

There was  
something  
about my  
father that  
always  
attracted  
murki.

I'd  
never  
stay  
in one  
place...

...I'd go  
from town  
to town  
helping them  
with murki  
problems as a  
"musukishi."

It's my  
home-  
town.

It's shut  
off, but  
it's a  
beautiful  
village.

To see  
my  
parents  
and  
friends...

As often  
as I  
could, I'd  
stop by  
my home  
village.



I learned  
from  
other  
musukishi  
what to  
do...

...If I  
was ever  
caught  
by the  
Tokoyami.

So I  
never  
gave  
up...and  
I'm still  
here.

I  
was  
sure that  
my family  
and friends  
were still  
wandering  
the moun-  
tains.



How-  
ever...

...when I  
went back  
to my  
village...

...one  
day...





If you say any more...

...I'll have you killed!



...of your excuses to stay!

Don't give me any...



This is something...

I have to do on my own.

That's all.



Those people...

...maybe look just like you, Nii.



It'll be about... six years now.

How long has it been?



All that time...

...you've been alone?



That's okay, right? So I'll stay here and--

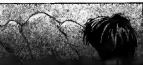
**No!**



And I'll help you look!

They must be!

I know it!



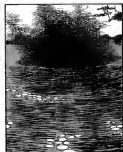
Ren L.

...not good enough?



Why not?











I have to admit...

...that for some time...

Now...



I've with this...

I kept on looking in hopes that they had never been bathed in the light.

...I never accepted that my husband, child, and the others had turned into Tokoyami.



...I've known.

...But everything is right here.



And now that you know...

...you will have to leave.

It's all...

...Far too late, Yoko.



...bathed in the light for too long.

...I had already...

And...

...by the time I figured out about the fish...



I gathered it, too...

I've been keeping records of the Ginko.



I took the one-eyed fish from the lake.

I tried to keep them from being bathed in the light.

But...

That means...

Null!



However, eventually they'd lose both eyes...

...and turn into Tokoyami.

But...

...once the fish started to turn white...

...the progress might have slowed a bit...



This isn't...

...a good place for you.



No.

This is...

...a place for me and for the Tokoyami.



No!

The fact that you have to come town.

...It's a good omen for you, I'm sure of it.



I've got a home town, and it's here!

I've lived here the longest of any place!



But with you here...

It's just painful.



K Tump



...that you could make it in a wandering life.

I know...



Nothing...

...can help me now.

At this time...

...I've felt that it's best not to fight it.



No!

There's gotta be a way!

Don't talk nonsense.

Well, let's leave together!



...just go away.

Please.





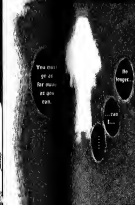


Don't  
go!!

Nii!!

What  
are  
you  
doing?





The  
Ginoh...

But the  
other one  
must be  
closed  
rightly.

That is the  
only way to  
see the light  
of the sun  
again.

...It  
looks like...

Yes...

...you  
must give  
up the  
Ginoh...

...so you  
can find  
your way  
out of the  
Dilemma.

Ahh...

Oh,  
no!

That  
glowing  
Asteroid...

Give  
back a  
ring of  
asteroids...

to have  
the  
Asteroid  
ring  
back.

How...

Yes!

When  
you cast  
your eyes  
on me...

But  
just my  
head...

I'm  
hungry!  
...have  
my  
eyes.

...It is  
warm like  
the sun.

It's  
going  
to  
the  
bottom.

and  
Wakayama.

...Dr.  
Ginko?

To  
that...

Nu...



...I  
noticed.

I don't  
know  
how  
long...



I  
smell...

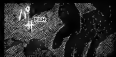
...the  
odor of  
dirt.



There's  
a small  
figure in  
the distance.

People  
call  
it a  
ghost.

It's  
just  
a  
child.



A  
+  
tree...



A  
tree...

6

Everything...

...simple...

...four  
as in four,  
that's all.

7

Right...

...and  
page...

...are  
things that  
blind men's  
eyes.

8  
The  
end  
of  
the  
world





However...

No...

Have you remembered anything other than your name?

But tomorrow, we're going to have to present you to the village head.

Well, that's okay. You can stay here forever if you want.

Hey?!

What's with you, kid?

I never saw you before.

Yo!

I'm back.

Mem...

Is it okay for you to be up?  
Don't overdo it.

...add things that come by.

And there are...

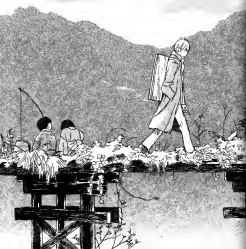
The hole that is my left eye.

It's not a bad thing to have a hole in your eye.

It's not a bad thing to have a hole in your eye.

# 付録

Appendix





• Goshnowise • But right after that, in a painful blow, the magazine ceased publication. ... Goshnow! That's what it felt like. It seems that a lot had happened in the business! After that, the story continued in the afternoon when magazine. The fourth volume isn't finished yet. Maybe in a year...

(In The Cry of Fear) My original thought for the voice of rust was LK. For some reason, it's a voice I like. (In the Dossan Edge) I love the sea, but there are also times when I'm afraid of it. The first time I ever saw a sea snake while diving, I went into the worst kind of panic. I think it's because when people are in water, they are at their very weakest. Its movement was so fast! (In The Heavy Seed) The wet-field rice farms in the Tokoku region are so beautiful! (In White Living in the Inbetween) I have shivers! Especially in summer! (In The Fish Gate) When this story was published in the magazine, it came right after "Rust," but it was such an atypical story, it was moved to the back.

There was about a year and a half between Volumes 1 and 3. But from then to Volume 4 was a little less than a year. I know it was because I started officially doing this as a writer and because the magazine went from being published quarterly to every other month, but my memory of those times is that I was very busy when doing them. But even so, thinking back on it now, I have great memories of them. (Heavy Eyes) • To Be Continued •

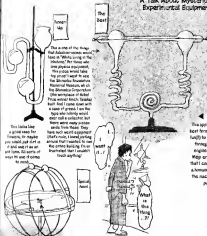


THANKS:

Mami-chin, Yone, Yoko-chan, Yoyo-chan, Tetsuo, Hiro



A Talk About Mysterious Experimental Equipment



The appliance had the best form. I think it'd be happy to run electricity through it. Among engineering for the May era, it's a shape that I could use making a monument. I forget the machine's original purpose.

Adashiro

The Materials Museum in Nijo, Kyoto, Kyoto



The building itself is nice, and the stained glass in the entranceway is cute!



## **Jeee, page 93**

This is one of the many sounds that manga use to represent cicadas. Since cicadas come out only in late summer, they have become manga shorthand to indicate that the scene is taking place in that season. You will see this device come up time after time in manga.



## **Narazu, page 101**

Narazu, the first word in Narazu seed, means "not happening," but a better translation would be "Mushn't happen." Since the Narazu seed leads not only to death but also to other *mushishi* tobaccos, the name makes sense.

## **Translation Notes**

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more an art than a science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction in our translation, or where a Japanese cultural reference appears.

## **Yasabi, page 20**

No, this is not related to the horseradish wasabi. It is made up of two kanji, the first being ya, which means fields or wild, and the second sabi, which means rust.



## **Thank you for everything, page 30**

The Japanese phrase Tetsu uses for this line is *Osewa ni narimashita*, which is a standard phrase one uses when leaving a job or a place where one has lived. It literally means "I've been in your care," but the sense is closer to "Thank you for all you've done for me." Although the English translation uses the word "good-bye," the phrase itself implies a good-bye.



## Ginko, page 198

The name that Nui made up for the *mushi* of light within the *mushi* of darkness is made up of two kanji: *gin*, which means silver, and *ko*, which is another way to pronounce the kanji for *mushi*.

## UA, page 239

UA is a female rock performer who combines breathy vocals with an eclectic mix of jazz and electronica to create moody, otherworldly songs. Her style, at first, seems somewhat akin to Björk's, but she has a huskier voice.

## Tohoku region, page 239

This area is located north of Tokyo and stretches up to the sea that lies between Japan's main island of Honshu and the north island of Hokkaido. It is known for its earthy, rustic people, massive mountains, and rural settings. Of course it isn't as provincial as people think, but impressions are a hard thing to change.

## Futon, page 142

Most Americans know futon as a thick cushion that one can buy for a futon couch. But futons in Japan are much thinner—the *tatami* mat below the futon provides cushioning—and they can be used either as a thin mattress or as a comforter on top. The girl in this scene wants the additional futon to serve as an extra comforter for warmth.



## Kumohami, page 165

This *mushi* name is made up of two kanji characters: *kumo*, which means cloud, and *hami*, which means to eat. Thus the *mushi* are called cloud eaters.

## Tokoyami, page 198

The name of this type of *mushi* is made up of two kanji. *Toko* means eternal, and *yami* means darkness.

